Item No. 1008-D

X 96-2: S. RP. 1025

Calendar No. 1158

96TH CONGRESS, 2d Session | SENATE | REPORT No. 96-1025

AMENDING THE ACT OF AUGUST 25, 1916

NOVEMBER 21 (legislative day, NOVEMBER 20), 1980.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. BUMPERS, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, submitted the following

COMPLETED
ORIGINAL

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2752]

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to which was referred the bill (S. 2752) to amend the act of August 25, 1916, as amended, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with amendment and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 2, strike lines 6–8 and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SEC. 2. The provisions of section 1 shall apply to appointments made after the date of enactment of this Act.

PURPOSE OF THE MEASURE

The purpose of S. 2752, as ordered reported, is to make the Director of the National Park Service a Presidential appointee, subject to confirmation by the Senate.

BACKGROUND AND NEED

The Director of the National Park Service is currently appointed by the Secretary of the Interior and is not subject to confirmation by the Senate.

When the Land and Water Conservation Fund was reauthorized in 1976, the Senate version included a provision requiring Senate confirmation of the National Park Service Director in direct response to the problems encountered in the early 1970's in making sure that qualified professionals were appointed.

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(3)

This provision was not adopted by the conferees, partly because of concerns expressed by the Department of the Interior that such a procedure would subject the Director to political pressures which would presumably not be brought to bear on a career professional chosen solely by the Secretary.

Since 1976, two Directors have been removed from office without prior notice to or consultation with the Congress. The last two appointees were both men well qualified for the job in background and experience, as is the new Director appointed some months ago.

Their dismissal, for what certainly appear to be political rather than professional considerations, can only erode the professional nature of the job and could lead to a situation where qualified career personnel would be unwilling to accept this position in the future.

This legislation, which subjects future nominees to Senate confirmation, will help assure that the most qualified individuals are nominated and that congressional oversight of job performance is present to provide some protection for professionals serving in this important position.

Legislative History

S. 2752 was introduced by Senator Johnston on May 22, 1980. No hearings have been conducted on this proposal.

Committee Recommendation and Tabulation of Votes

Then Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, in open business session on November 19, 1980, by unanimous voice vote of a quorum present recommends that the Senate pass S. 2752 if amended, as described herein.

Cost and Budgetary Considerations

The following estimate of costs of this measure has been provided by the Congressional Budget Office:

U.S. Congress,
Congressional Budget Office,
Washington, D.C., November 19, 1980.

Hon. Henry M. Jackson,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Chairman: Pursuant to section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Congressional Budget Office has reviewed S. 2752, a bill to amend the act of August 25, 1916, as amended, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, November 19, 1980. This bill specifies that the Director of the National Park Service is to be appointed by the President, subject to confirmation by the Senate, and states certain qualifications for the position. No cost to the Federal Government would be incurred as a result of enactment of this bill.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Reischauer
(For Alice M. Rivlin, Director).

Regulatory Impact Evaluation

The bill is not a regulatory measure in the sense of imposing Government-established standards or significant economic responsibilities on private individuals and businesses. S. 2752 makes the Director of the National Park Service a Presidential appointee, subject to confirmation by the Senate.

No personal information would be collected in administering the program. Therefore, there would be no impact on personal privacy.

Executive Communications

Prior to the reporting of S. 2752, no executive agency recommendations were transmitted to the committee relating to this measure.

Changes in Existing Law

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the committee notes that no changes in existing law are made by the bill S. 2752 as reported.

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